



Date: April 13, 2007

To: Old Sixth Ward Historic District Property Owners

Re: Adoption of Protected Historic District

The Planning and Development Department is seeking to determine property owner support within the Old Sixth Ward Historic District for the establishment of a Protected Historic District with the attached card. The proposed Protected Historic District would strengthen preservation efforts within the Old Sixth Ward Historic District by:

- Establishing boundaries (see attached map) that lie within the existing boundary of the City Designated Historic District
- Establishing a "No means no provision" that eliminates the 90-day waiting period, whereby inappropriate activities, such as demolition, would not be allowed unless the building is non-contributing or an economic hardship can be demonstrated
- Implementing Design Guidelines, a pictorial reference guide for alteration, rehabilitation, restoration, relocation and new construction, which clearly defines the requirements for compliance. The review criteria is the same as that of the existing Historic Preservation Ordinance. New construction need only be compatible in setback, roof shapes, architectural elements, and garage placement
- Being administered by the Planning and Development Department with the Houston Archeological and Historical Commission (HAHC) continuing their approval authority for Certificates of Appropriateness (COA). The HAHC has the expertise to review historic design standards, and the Protected Historic District designation would provide a one-step approval process for the COA

The Protected Historic District status does NOT regulate land use.

A town hall meeting will be held on **April 26, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.** at the United Way, 50 Waugh Drive, to discuss the specifics of the proposal. Feel free to submit your card at the meeting. All cards must be returned to the Planning Department no later than close of business on May 4, 2007.

For further information, please call Thomas McWhorter at 713-837-7963.